



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**May 1, 2006**

**CONTACT:**  
**Vanessa Gulati**  
**617-626-1119**

**FIRST STEP OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BEGINS  
FOR STORROW DRIVE TUNNEL PROJECT**

***Scoping Sessions on May 11 Will Shape Environmental Review of Project***

**Boston** - The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has submitted an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) through the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) on the Storrow Drive Tunnel Reconstruction Project. DCR voluntarily chose to prepare an Environmental Impact Report because of Storrow Drive's location along the Esplanade and Charles River and importance to the region.

MEPA has scheduled two public Scoping Sessions on the project on Thursday, May 11. The first session will be at 2 PM in the Auditorium at the Shriners' Hospital at 51 Blossom St., Boston. The evening session is for the convenience of the public; the short presentation will be the same at both meetings. It will be held in Gardner Auditorium in the State House at 6:30 PM. Because DCR has already committed to preparing an EIR, commenters will be able to focus on the project approach and issues to be discussed in the EIR rather than on the need for an EIR.

DCR has introduced four different tunnel options to the public in a series of four public meetings in Boston and Cambridge. The options include:

1. Rehabilitating the existing tunnel in the current configuration
2. Constructing an at-grade Parkway with traffic signals
3. Constructing a two-tunnel option with no Arlington St. westbound exit to improve Esplanade access
4. Constructing new tunnels with at grade local traffic

The presentations included information on estimated costs and construction duration for the options and an evaluation of the options against a set of draft project criteria. DCR is also

-more-

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Mitt Romney  
Governor

Kerry Healey  
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

working with a number of other agencies to look at the impact of traffic detours, shutdowns and diversions on other Boston and Cambridge streets and traffic flow. Detailed traffic data will be included in the preparation of the EIR.

MEPA has agreed to DCR's request for an extended comment period of 48 days, which will end on **June 13, 2006**. Written comments should refer to the Storrow Drive Tunnel project (EOEA #13777) and should be sent to EOEA at the following address:

Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
Attn.: MEPA Office, Deirdre Buckley, EOEA #13777  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston MA 02114

The PowerPoint presentation from the March 2006 meetings is posted on DCR's website at [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

###